



SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1968

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector: W. N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
Sturminster Newton,
Dorset.

May 1969

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1968.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

There was no increased incidence of notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to Mrs. V. Donovan for her efficient services as my Clerk during the year.

I would also like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

Since this is the last Annual Report I shall be privileged to present to you, may I take the opportunity of wishing the Council and the Borough every good wish and success in its future expansion and development.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant, .

John S. Teasdale
Medical Officer of Health.

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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968

- - - -

A. Area - 1,078 acres

Rateable Value: 1st April, 1969 £157,956
 Production of a penny rate: 1968/69 £580 (est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) .. 3,410
 Natural decrease in population (deaths over births) 16

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Shaftesbury Borough</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Total	21	14) Rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	2	2) resident population = 10.3	12.9	16.9

STILL BIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil) Rate per 1,000 live & still- births = Nil	Nil	14.0
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DEATHS

Total	34	27) Rate per 1,000 resident population = 17.9	14.4	11.9
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DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 year	Nil	Nil) Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	18.0
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Perinatal mortality	Nil			Nil	25.4
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		<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		1	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs		5	6	4	Nil
" " Other Cancer		6	1	5	3
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	14	17	8	4	
" " Other heart or vascular disease		17	14	11	21
" " Influenza		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia		5	5	2	2
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " All other accidents	1	1	Nil	1	
" " Suicide	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
" " Leukaemia & Aleukaemia	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	

B.

NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough, with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts.

During the year several more light industries have become established on the newly developed industrial site, gradually turning Shaftesbury into a small, as yet, industrial centre.

C.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT which are not the responsibility of the Borough Council.

The Hospital Service

The Westminster Memorial Hospital of the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board provides local hospital facilities, both in-patient and out-patient.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided by the County Council.

Laboratory Services

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved in every way to be co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculations, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Domestic Home Help Service

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own home.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgement must be made of the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Silver Thread Club and the Meals on Wheels Service provided by the W.R.V.S.

Thirty four elderly people benefitted from this valuable service during the year. Not only are the meals appreciated but, even more, (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by the helpers who take the meals round.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
(Part time) D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other district Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne District acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal voluntary basis.

Public Health Inspector - William Norman Teasdale, F.R.S.H.,
(Part time) M.A.P.H.I., Certificate of R.S.H. as
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Technical Assistant - Peter J. Sherman, A.I.Q.S., M.R.S.H.
(Part time Public Health Duties)

The Public Health Inspector was given additional help towards the end of the year by the appointment of Mr. Sherman, as technical assistant.

Although of considerable help to Mr. Teasdale, the routine public health duties have not yet been fully met. With the town expansion envisaged, an officer giving his whole time duties as a public health inspector will be required. The strains on a public health department increase as the population increases and this will need to be met before full expansion has been achieved.

Water Supply

All properties in the Borough are served by a public water supply with the exception of one property having a satisfactory private supply. Nine properties (twenty persons) are, however, still served by stand-pipe supplies.

The public supply is provided by the West Wilts Water Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between Officers of your Council and those of the Board.

Regular sampling of the supply at source, by the Board, has been carried out.

The supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

Further efforts were made during the year to minimise the nuisances caused by the existing inadequate sewerage treatment in the Borough, pending a satisfactory sewage treatment and disposal scheme.

As such a scheme was dependent on decisions as to the future development of the Borough, no firm decisions could be made by the end of the year.

Public Cleansing

There has been no change in the weekly curbside collection of refuse and disposal on to the Salisbury Road tip.

Continued extension of the tipping area at the Salisbury Road tip has continued during the year. There is, however, a limit to how long this can be continued. With an increasing population, both domestic and industrial, further efforts will be required to be made with other local authorities to accept your refuse as you have no space in your Borough to deal with it.

Roadside Sanitation

No serious public health nuisances have occurred in your Borough from unsatisfactory roadside sanitation. There is one unofficial lay-by on the A30, adjoining the refuse tip, which enables it to have weekly attention.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

One part time Inspector (your Public Health Inspector) was appointed under this Act. The estimated number of premises subject to registration is 79. Registered premises number 65. 55 premises were inspected during the year, 86 inspections being carried out.

Factories Act, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	109	3
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	15	42	2
Total:	46	151	5

No. of cases in which defects were:	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences	2	2	-
Other offences	1	-	-
	5	4	-

No. of outworkers (Wearing Apparel) 53

The Clean Air Act, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Radioactive Substances Act

No premises in the Borough are registered under this Act.

Swimming Baths

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough provided by the Council.

Although the bacterial quality of the water remained good, this was only achieved by the extra refilling of the bath during the season. The supervision of the bathers outside school hours and during school holidays was left in the hands of volunteers.

Great credit must be given to these volunteers but I feel that I must advise the Council that supervision should, at all times, be given by persons fully trained in life saving and with adequate life saving equipment at hand.

The Control of Moveable Dwellings

There are no licensed caravan sites in the Borough.

Verminous Premises

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The duties of the Council under the above Act are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee.

The joint scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee continues to work very well and prompt action by the operatives in dealing with complaints of infestation keeps the position constantly under control.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963

No premises in the Borough are registered under this Act. Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the Borough Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this act.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTFENS)

The Principal School Medical Officer's attention was drawn in 1967 to certain unsatisfactory conditions at the boarding houses of the Girls High School in particular, Sunridge.

Authorisation has been given to the necessary work being carried out during 1969/70.

With the opening of the new Junior School at Mampitts Lane, and the closure of The Holy Trinity and Cann schools, the canteen and other facilities have materially improved.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No action under this Act was required to be taken to effect the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two sets of public conveniences in the Borough. At the Bleke Street recreation ground there is one without washing facilities. At the Town Hall (part underground) provision is made for men and women. Washing facilities - cold water with soap and paper towels are now provided.

Providing Ministerial sanction is given, the long awaited conveniences at Coppice Street car park will be provided during 1969.

HOUSING

Twenty three new houses were provided by private enterprise during the year and sixty six by the Council.

Total No. of houses in the district 1, 356

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	281
No. of inspections made	357
No. of informal notices served	35
No. of informal notices complied with	29
No. of statutory notices served	nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	nil

No action was taken under Section 13 of the Housing Act 1964 to carry out inspections to define improvement areas in the Borough.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were brought to the notice of the Council during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Two houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings.

Rehousing

Eighty one families were housed by the Council during the year, compared with seventeen during the preceding year.

Housing Applications

At the end of the year there were fifty three applications on the Council's housing waiting list (compared with ninety five) of which twenty two were resident in the Borough and thirty one resident outside the Borough.

Improvement Grants

One application for 'standard' and six for 'discretionary' grants were received during the year.

It is interesting to note that, since Improvement Grants were introduced in 1965, more than one hundred Grants have been given in respect of older houses in the Borough. Of the remaining six hundred older houses, an appreciable number have been improved or reconditioned without Grant assistance. It can be said that the general standard of housing in the Borough has improved materially in the post war years.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

MILK

MILK & DAIRIES (General) REGULATIONS, 1959

No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration	nil
No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration	6

Samples

Seven samples of milk from the Borough were taken and submitted for examination during the year by officers of the County Council. None by officers of the Borough Council.

Brucellosis

No samples were taken specifically for examination for Brucellosis. This examination is carried out as a routine measure by the County Staff, and any positive results notified to me. No such notifications were received during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Details of food premises subject to the above are grouped in categories of trade carried on in them and including the following information for each category separately:-

Trade	No. of Premises	No. complying to Reg. 16.	No. of Reg. 19 Premises	No. complying to Reg. 19.
Hotels	5	5	5	5
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Public Houses	9	9	9	9
Clubs	6	5	6	6
Church Halls	6	6	6	6
Canteens - Schools	7	7	7	7
Confectioners	4	3	2	2
Meat and Fish	6	6	6	6
Grocers	7	7	7	7
Mixed Stores	5	5	5	5
Food Factories	1	1	1	1
Boarding Schools	2	2	2	2
Others	9	9	9	9
	67	65	65	65

No. of such premises inspected during the year 61

No. of inspections carried out 250

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:-

Ice Cream	17
Sausages & Prepared Meats	4
Fish and Chips	2

Whilst no infringements of the regulations have been reported, it is a matter of some concern that there is not sufficient staff employed to ensure a regular and routine inspection of all premises in the Borough which come within the provisions of the regulations. Only regular inspections stimulate the highest interest in food hygiene and safety.

With the increasing use of deep freezers, it is important that adequate supervision of the proper use of these facilities is maintained. This is a duty of the Public Health Inspector. Without personnel available, such supervision cannot be maintained.

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test .. nil

Food Shops and Other Premises

The total quantity of foodstuff condemned during the year was thirty three pounds. Twenty eight inspections were made.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the Borough and no samples of liquid egg have been taken for examination.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no slaughterhouse, now, in the Borough.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,635
Total no. of informal notices served	152
Total no. of informal notices complied with	129
Total no. of statutory notices served	2
Total no. of statutory notices complied with	1
No. of prosecutions	nil

In the field of public health inspection, less tends to be done each succeeding year due to increased pressure in all branches of the surveying side of the work, not the least being town planning and Building Regulations. Whilst it is known that no great public health nuisances exist on food premises, offices and shops, and in housing, routine inspection is almost non-existent and, when carried out, has to be more or less perfunctory because of the time involved. Neither can records be kept up to date and difficulties are likely to be further accentuated and become more urgent of solution. One thing is certain that the existing staff will not be able to cope without further technical assistance or the appointment of a public health inspector divorced from the present combined duties of public health inspector and Borough Surveyor.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	
		<u>Respiratory</u>
		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Measles	9	
Dysentery	2	
Pneumonia	1	
Tuberculosis		
New cases notified	3	Nil

Food Poisonening

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

